THE CHRISTIAN BANNER.

SECOND EDITION.

VOL. I.] FREDERICKSBURG, VA., MAY 20, 1862. [NUMBER 2.

Christian Banner.

J. W. HUNNICUTT,—PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE.—In the North wing of the Old Town Hall, one door South from the corner of Princess Ann and Commerce Streets.

FROM FORT WRIGHT.

The Rebels Supposed To Be Evacuating The Place.

Chicago, May 10.—A special dispatch to the Times from Fort Wright, says that deserters arrived at the fleet yesterday, and assert positively that all the forces of the enemy had been withdrawn from the fort, leaving barely enough to work the guns.

Jeff Thompson came yesterday under a flag of truce, and exchanged a couple of Federal surgeons captured at Belmount, for rebel officers of equal rank. He has command both afloat and ashore.

PROBABLE EVACUATION OF FORT WRIGHT.

Chicago, May 10—A special dispatch to the Tribune, from Cairo, says that a report reached there last night that a lieutenant from the gunboat Benton having been sent to the mortars during yesterday, and seeing no signs of life about the works at Fort Wright, approached as near as he could, and with his glass was able to see only a few laborers. Although he could look into the works, not a soldier was to be seen.

ARRIVAL OF COMMODORE FOOTE AT CAIRO.

Cairo, May 10 — Commodore Foote arrived here to day, en route for Cleveland, having Captain Davis in charge of his fleet. The destruction of property at Memphis corroborated by the Federal prisoners exchanged yesterday. We also learn from them that General Villipigue had expressed himself as thoroughly disgusted with the manner in which his command had been taken away by piecemeal.

The general opinion among distinguished officers is that Fort Wright is to be evacuated within a week.

STATEMENT OF RELEASED UNION PRISONERS.

Capt J. A. Farish, of the 79th New York regiment, and Lieut. J. W. Dempsey, of the 2d New York arrived in this city, on Thursday from Richmond. They were captured at the battle of Bull Run, (where both were wounded) and carried to Richmond, and, after a time, successively to Castle Pinckney, Columbia, S. C., and other Confederate prisons, and some time ago returned to Richmond and confined, with about 500 other prisoners, in a building occupied formerly by a man named Libby, as a pork packing establishment.

They left Richmond last Thursday morning in charge of Lieut Lewis, of Gen. Winder's staff, and, after being blindfolded, conveyed per railroad to a station which their guard said was the Summit. They were lifted out of the cars and into an ambulance. From the tramping and shuffling which they heard, and other noises, they were inclined to think, that there was a large crowd gathered in and around the station; but not being allowed to ask any questions, they can only guess at this. They were carried a ride of about two or three hours in the ambulance, when they came to a sudden halt by the ambulance breaking down.

Lieut. Barnwell (of a South Carolina regiment) who had taken them in charge at the summit, offered them his arm, and marched them half a mile through a wood, where he removed the bandages, and told them he did not think they could reach the Federal lines that night and that there would be a fight upon the very ground they were standing upon. At this moment a courier came up with a dispatch to Lieut. Barnwell, who again Blindfolding his prisoners, returned to where the ambulance broke down, and impressing a cart into the service, put the prisoners therein, with their backs to the horses, and started off towards the Federal lines, arriving at Gen. McDowell's headquarters that night. They passed on the way some soldiers, and they brought also some artillery.

They report that on last Saturday night a large meeting was held in Richmond, to decide what should be done with the city on the arrival of the Federals. The property holders and most substantial men of the city favored a surrender, while those who had no interest there, and generally blacklegs and thieves, were rampant for burning it.

Capt. Farrish thinks there is a very strong Union feeling in Richmond. Every corner is nightly pasted with Union sentiments and mysterious writings, which alarm the Secessionists very much.

On last Saturday and all day Sunday, there was much excitement in the city and troops were being rapidly sent off; while all the artillery that had been sent south of Richmond some time previous, was hurriedly brought back and shipped north.

From all that our informant could learn, the Confederates evidently intended attacking Gen. McDowell that night (Thursday), and a large force was hurried off from Richmond for that purpose.

The Confederates at Richmond have every vehicle and cart engaged, busily hauling stones and filling them in the canal and all other boats, for the purpose of sinking them in the James river on the approach of the Federal fleet. *Balt. Clipper*

[From the Baltimore Clipper, May 12.]

THE ADVANCE OF GEN. McCLELLAN.

FEDERAL FLEET AT WORK.

Capture of Norfolk and Portsmouth.

Washington, May 11.—The following official despatch was received at the War Department this morning:

Fortress Monroe, May 10—12 o'clock at night.—Norfolk is ours. Also Portsmouth and the Navy Yard.

Gen. Wool having completed the landing of his forces at Willoughby Point about 9 o'clock this morning commenced his march on Norfolk with *five thousand* men.

Secretary Chase accompanied the General.

About five miles from the landing place; a rebel battery was found on the opposite side of the bridge over Tanner's Creek, and after a few discharges upon two companies of infantry that were in the advance, the rebels burned the bridge. This compelled our force to march around five miles fur-

At five o'clock in the afternoon our forces were within a short distance of Norfolk, and were met by a delegation of citizens, and the city was formally surrendered.

Our troops were then marched in, and now have possession. Gen. Vielt is in command as Military Governor.

The city and Navy Yard were not burned.

The fires which have been seen for some hours proved to be the woods on fire.

Gen. Wool, with Secretary Chase, returned about 11 o'clock to-night.

Gen. Huger withdrew his forces without a battle.

The Merrimac is still off at Sewall's Point.

Commander Rogers' expedition was heard from this afternoon ascending James river.

The reports from Gen. McClellan are favorable.

E. M. Stanton,
Secretary of War.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM FORTRESS MONROE—THE MERRIMAC BLOWN UP BY THE REBELS—THE MONITOR AND OTHER GUNBOATS GONE TO NORFOLK.

Washington, May 11th.—The following highly important announcement has just been received from Fortress Monroe:

Fortress Monroe, May 11, A. M.—*Hon. R. H. Watson, Assistant Secretary of War*:—The Merrimac was blown up by the rebels at 2 minutes before 5 o'clock this morning. She was set fire to about 3 o'clock this morning, and the explosion took place at the time stated. It is said to have been a grand sight by those who saw it.

The Monitor, Stevens, and the gunboats, have gone up towards Norfolk.

THE ADVANCE ON RICHMOND.

New Kent Court House, Va., Saturday, May 10—3 P. M (27 miles from Richmond.)—The pursuit of the retreating rebels by our troops, under the command of Gen. Stoneman, has in every respect been successful. His headquarters are now here, twenty seven miles from Richmond, while the advance, consisting of the Eighth Illinois Cavalry is five miles ahead. The enemy are in sight, but gradually falling back. The inhabitants have, in nearly every instance left, but from the best information that has been obtained, the enemy will make a stand at Bottom bridge, 15 miles from Richmond, the Headquarters of the Chickahominy river.

Gen McClellan, with the main body of the army, is rapidly following up within a few miles.

Cumberland, a small town on the Pamunkey river, and two and a half miles from here, was deserted this morning by the enemy, and is now occupied by our forces.

There are no rebels to be seen, as reported by our scouts, this side of the Chickahominy river, except on the direct road to Richmond.

The force under Gen Stoneman consisted of the 2d Rhode Island and 9th Pennsylvania regiments of infantry, Capt. Robinson's battery of light artillery, and the Sixth Cavalry under Major Williams.

The rear guard of the enemy, which remained here last night, and which our men had to drive before them, was Gen. Longstreet's Division, consisting of ten regiments of infantry, two batteries, and a regiment of the First Virginia Cavalry. Our advance was this morning strengthened, on ascertaining the force of the enemy, by the Eighth Illinois Cavalry and two regiments of the First New Jersey Brigade. The enemy, on leaving here this forenoon, fired two buildings containing commissary and quartermaster stores.

The engagement yesterday between our advance and the enemy's rear, at Slater's Mills, three miles from here, resulted in fourteen of the enemy's cavalry being killed and several taken prisoners. They secured the wounded. The Sixth Cavalry, which made a most brilliant charge, had three killed and three men missing, and thirteen wounded. Gen. Howell Cobb remained here last night and left with the rebels this morning.

The enemy's retreat has been most admirably accomplished, carrying almost everything with them in the shape of forage and provisions, the wagon trains in the day time and their troops at night. The enemy covered their retreat with a line of skirmishers stretched across the country, driving in their stragglers at the point of the bayonet.

The Richmond papers of the 6th make no mention of the movements of their army. The country between here and Bottom Bridge is thickly wooded, with a few clearings and in many places low and swampy. The jail here was burnt yesterday. The railroad from West Point to the bridge where it crosses the Pamunkey river has been torn up, and the destruction of the

Capture of One Hundred and Eighty of Morgan's Cavalry.

Louisville, May 10.—One hundred and eighty of Morgan's captured cavalry have arrived at Nashville, en route for the North.

The following is an extract from Gen. Dumont's official report:

Lebanon, May 5, 1862.

"I surprised and attacked the enemy under Cols. Morgan and Wood this morning at 4 o'clock at this place, and after a hard fought battle of one and a half hours, and a running fight of 18 miles in pursuit, achieved a complete and substantial victory My force was about 600, composed of detachments from Col. Wynkoop's 7th Pennsylvania, Col. G. Clay Smith's 5th Kentucky, and Col. Wolford's 1st Kentucky cavalry, that of the enemy, as stated by himself, upwards of eight hundred.—Besides which the disloyal inhabitants, not in the army, opened a murderous fire on our soldiers from their houses, and kept it up until all the organized forces of the enemy had fled, or where slain or captured."

The forces on either side were exclusively mounted. I captured, say 150 prisoners among whom is Lieut. Col. Robert C. Wood late of the United States army, 3 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, and upwards of 150 horses, and 100 stand of arms. Our killed will not exceed 6 and our wounded 25. Among the latter are Cols. G. Clay Smith and Wolford, the former in the leg, the latter in the abdomen. We lost no prisoners except Major Given, 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry, who fell into the hands of the enemy during the street fight by mistaking them for our own troops.

In this little affair intrepidity and personal daring were conspicuous throughout.

It is reliably reported by messengers from Lebanon that Morgan himself was among the killed. There is, as yet, no official confirmation of this report.

Affairs at Charleston.

New York, May 10.—The Nassau papers of the 30th contain news from Charleston, obtained from the steamer Kate. Five schooners had run the blockade. The Charlestonians were expecting to be attacked soon, and there was considerable excitement there. Business was almost entirely suspended. Forts Moultrie and Sumter had been furnished with heavy guns, and there was a general uneasiness relative to the result of McClellan's movements at Yorktown. The steamship Oreto, with arms from Liverpool, and the steamship Skeltin, from Hull, England, with an assorted cargo to Adderly & Co. had arrived. The people of Charleston were in great suspense about New Orleans, telegraphic communication with that point having suddenly ceased.

GENERAL HALLECK'S ARMY.

Beauregard concedes the possession of the Mississippi to the Federals, and orders all the Rebel troops to fall back on Corinth.

Chicago, May 10.—A special dispatch to the Times says:

The Continental, from Pittsburg has arrived. On Thursday morning General Halleck had, with 6,000 cavalry, infantry, and several batteries, made a reconnoisance for the purpose of ascertaining the position of the enemy. At the time the Continental left the expedition had not returned. Our line has been extended so that our advanced pickets now occupy the ground lately held by the rebels. The enemy's pickets are posted in Corinth, within rifle range of our own pickets.

SECOND DISPATCH.

Chicago, May 10.—A special dispatch to the Cairo Tribune says that Beauregard has issued a proclamation stating that the Federal forces virtually had possession of the Mississippi river, and ordered all forces to be sent to Corinth, and that all the cotton, sugar and molasses be destroyed, which order was being observed.

LATER FROM PITTSBURG LANDING

Later from Memphis—Destruction of Cotton sugar and molasses—General Beauregard's Army on half Rations.

Cairo, May 10 —The steamer Roe, from Pittsburg Landing yesterday afternoon, has arrived, and reports that one hundred of our cavalry, while reconnoitering from the left wing on Thursday night, were surprised by a superior force of rebels and were captured.

A refugee from Memphis reports that a large number of troops had arrived at Memphis from Arkansas and Texas, and been immediately sent to Corinth.

The provost Marshal at Memphis commenced burning the cotton early last week. Most of the sugar and molasses was thrown in the river.

The rebel government had seized a large amount of property and sent it to Columbus after a treaty of peace with the United States.

Jeff. Thompson was scouring the country around Memphis with his gang, enforcing the conscription act. Deserters from Beauregard's army reported the troops to be on half rations, and that their provisions could not last forty days.

The infantry which have been stationed at Fort Wright had been sent to Corinth.

A number of the citizens of Memphis had been imprisoned for expressing doubts as to the success of the Rebel government.—Union men remained there, but no rebel sympathizers. They are leaving for the interior in anticipation of the arrival of the Federal fleet.

THE LATEST FROM GENERAL HALLECK.

Washington, May 11.—The latest intelligence received at the War Department, from Gen. Halleck's army, is dated 10 P. M. It was moving on Corinth, but had been impeded in its progress by the heaviness of its rains and the almost impassable condition of the roads through a densely wooded country. The army was in good health and good spirits, and its officers confident of success.

Interesting in Regard to Affairs at Norfolk.

A council of war was held in Norfolk last Friday, Secretary of War G. W. Randolph, and Mallory, Secretary of the Navy, General. Huger, Brigadier-General Blanchard, and the Colonels of the different regiments stationed at Norfolk and Portsmouth, were in attendance. The result was the determination to evacuate Norfolk. The evacuation immediately commenced. The body of the rebel troops were sent to support Magruder and Johnston. The guns and machinery of the Navy Yard are being shipped to Raleigh and Charlotte, N. C., Commissary stores are mostly shipped to Petersburg and Richmond. The heavy guns are being dismounted at all the batteries, and a few rounds only of ammunition for each gun are left. Commodore Lee says: "there shall not be a brick left standing" in the Navy Yard Hospital, &c.

Many families are removing their effects, but the majority will remain. Great excitement exists at the anticipated arrival of the Union forces. Burnside is said to be moving up the Roanoke and Chowan rivers, to cut off the rebel retreat from Norfolk. It is currently reported in Norfolk that McDowell has a force of 80,000 men opposite Fredericksburg. Rosencrans, they think, has superseded Banks, and has a force of 30,000 men operating against Stonewall Jackson. The majority of the citizens in Norfolk and Portsmouth are Union, and the leading Secessionists propose to remain and take the oath of allegiance [illegible] Tatnall is still in command of the Merrimac. Buchanan is not dead, neither has his leg been amputated, He is at Norfolk, but very feeble.

Provisions are scarce. Tea selling at $2 per pound; Coffee, 90 cents; Sugar, 35 cents; Butter, $1,50. Night before last the Jamestown and Yorktown went up the James river, with two rebel gunboats in tow, taking them up to Richmond to have them plated. Another gunboat also accompanied [illegible] Capt. [illegible] says that the rebels were to mount his boat with a gun this morning, and add her to the Confederate fleet. He therefore concluded to leave.

The Sixteenth Virginia Regiment is at Sewall's Point, and there are 5,000 troops in Norfolk and Portsmouth.

McClellan is reported within fifteen miles of Richmond, and the people do not credit the evacuation of Yorktown. It is reported that Buell and Halleck had been cut to pieces at Pittsburg Landing.—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

GENERAL POPE'S REPORT OF THE CAPTURE OF ISLAND No. 10.

The Cincinnati Commercial publishes Gen. Pope's official report of the capture of Island No. 10. Gen. Pope says: "It is almost impossible to give a correct list of the immense quantity of artillery, ammunition, and supplies of every description, which fell into our hands.

"Three generals, 273 field and company officers, 6,700 privates, 123 pieces of heavy artillery, 30 field guns, all of the best character and latest patterns, 7,000 stand of small arms, several wharf boats of provisions, immense quantities of ammunition of all kinds, many hundred horses and mules, with wagons, &c., are among the spoils.—Very few, if any, of the enemy escaped, and only by wading and swimming through the swamp.

"The conduct of the troops was splendid throughout as the results of this operation and its whole progress very plainly exhibit were lined with batteries and defended by 7,000 men. We have pursued and captured the whole force of the enemy, and all his supplies and material of war, and have again re-crossed and occupied the camp at New Madrid without losing a man or meeting with any accident. Such results bespeak efficiency, good conduct, high discipline and soldierly department of the best character. Patience, willing labor, endurance of hardship and privation for long periods, prompt obedience, order and discipline, bravery and spirit are the qualities which these operations have developed in the forces under my command, and which assure for them a brilliant and successful career in arms It is difficult to express the feeling which such conduct has occasioned me—fortunate enough to be the commander of such troops. There are few material obstacles within range of warfare which a man of courage and spirit would hesitate to encounter with such a force."

BRILLIANT VICTORY ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

Engagement Between the Federal Flotilla and the Rebel Fleet of Iron-clad Gunboats—Two Rebel Gunboats Blown Up and [illegible] Sunk!—The Rest Ran Away.

Washington, May 11.—The following dispatch reached the Navy Department to-day:

U. S. Flag Ship Benton, above Fort Pillow, Mississippi River, May 10, 1862.—*Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy*:—The Naval engagement for which the rebels have been preparing took place this morning. The rebel fleet, consisting of eight iron-clad gunboats, four of which were fitted with rams, came up handsomely. The action lasted one hour. *Two of the Rebel gunboats were blown up and one sunk*, when the enemy retired precipitately under the guns of the fort. Only six vessels of my squadron were engaged. The Cincinnati sustained some injury from the rams, but will be in fighting condition to-morrow.—Captain Stemble distinguished himself. He is severely wounded. The Benton is uninjured. Mortar boat No. 16, in charge of Second Master Gregory, behaved with great spirit.

The rebel squadron is [illegible] supposed to be commanded by Commodore Hollins.

C. H. Davis,
Captain Commanding Western Flotilla,
Mississippi River, pro tem.

☞ Rev. James [illegible] Barret, of Cairo, Egypt, has been appoi[illegible]ted by the Presbytery of Egypt a deleg[illegible]te to the United Presbyterian General A[illegible]ssembly, to meet in Pittsburg in May.

71.2009.085.20546

ONWARD AND UPWARD.

CHRISTIAN BANNER

JAMES W. HUNNICUTT..........Editor

FREDERICKSBURG, VA.

TUESDAY ....MAY 20, 1862.

Rebellion and Stubbornness.

Holy Writ says, and says nothing more true, than that, "rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."—And saint Paul says, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be, are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God; and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation."

This is the language of Inspiration. What does it mean? Let us see:

Dr. Macknight says, "The government of every State, whether it be monarchical, aristocratical, democratical, or mixed, is as really of divine appointment as the government of the Jews was, though none but the Jewish form was of divine legislation. God having designed mankind to live in society, he has, by the frame of their nature, and by the reason of things authorized government to be exercised in every country.—At the same time, having appointed no particular form to any nation but to the Jews, nor named any particular person or family to exercise the power of government, he has left it to the people to choose what form is most agreeable to themselves, and to commit the exercise of the supreme power to what persons they think fit. And therefore, whatever form of government hath been chosen, or is established in any country, both the divine sanction; and the persons who, by the choice, or even by the peaceable submission of the governed, have the reins of government in their hands, are the lawful sovereigns of that country, and have all the rights and prerogatives belonging to sovereignty vested in their persons.

Wherefore, since *the power* of which the apostle speaks, is the form of government, and not the rulers of a country, the subjection to the higher powers enjoined, is not an unlimited passive obedience to rulers in things sinful, but an obedience to the wholesome laws enacted for the good of the community by common consent, or by those who, according to the constitution of the State, have the power of enacting laws.—To these good laws the people are to give obedience, without examining by what title the magistrates who execute these laws hold their power; and even without considering, whether the religion professed by the magistrates be [illegible]

For the same reason, the opposition to, and resistance of the power forbidden, is an opposition to, and resistance of the established government, by disobeying the wholesome laws of the State, or by attempting to overthrow the government from a factious disposition, or from ill-will to the persons in power, or from an ambitious desire to possess the government ourselves."

The Constitution of the Federal Government, is one of the ablest documents in the world, and contains the purest and best form of Government, with which any people have ever been blessed since the direct legislation of Heaven over the Jews in the land of Canaan. By the wholesome provisions embraced in this Constitution, our fathers, grand-fathers, great grand-fathers, and we their descendants, have been and were protected in our persons and rights of all kinds, and were prosperous, and happy, enjoying all blessings heart could wish, until an *ill-natured faction* attempted the overthrow of this government.—The idea, that a set of ambitious, disappointed politicians could destroy, the Constitution framed by the clearest heads and purest hearts the world has known since the days of the Apostles of Jesus Christ, or make such improvements on it as virtually to annihilate it, is an instance of political egotism without a parallel in the history of the world. It is absolutely as ridiculous, as if a school-boy, who had just learned to decline a Greek noun, or conjugate a Latin verb, should attempt to improve on the beauties and elegances of Homer, or Virgil. The effort was made, however, and the result has proven a failure—the ruin of all.

We say a faction of *ill-natured* politicians attempted to *usurp* the reins of Government, resisting the constituted authority both of God and the people, and having resisted, they "shall receive to themselves damnation, or destruction." Are they not already politically damned? When this war shall have ended, will there be a single prestige of their former glory? When thousands of women and a half million of children wake up to the astounding reality, that they are widows and orphans, left homeless, penniless, friendless and thrown upon the cold charity of a heartless world, and ask, who? and what did this? And the volume of history shall be unfolded to their astonished vision, then will the *anathemas* of millions be heaped upon the very names and ashes of the leaders in this horribly wicked revolution.

A faction of politicians, whose motto was, *rule*, or *ruin*, met in secret Convention, concocted all their plans, determined at all hazards to carry them into effect, *created*, and signed an ordinance of secession, and then told their people and the world, that the state had seceded. And for what cause was all this done? Not because Abraham Lincoln was elected to the Presidency of the United States—Not because of the passage of th[illegible]

[illegible] had desired, and had been endeavoring for more than thirty years to overthrow the Federal Government—to dissolve the blessed Union, cemented by the sweat and blood of our ancestors, in order to establish a Government in harmony with their own ambitious views.

The border States were to be *dragged* into the same political whirl-pool of destruction. How was this to be done? By political intrigue—by a right down swindle. At least, this was the way Virginia was carried out of the Union. Let us see.

The Legislature of Virginia called a Convention—Union and Secession candidates were brought out before the people—Union candidates were elected by an overwhelming majority—They were elected with the perfect understanding, to take into consideration the policy, or impolicy of passing an ordinance of secession, and the final result of their deliberations to be refered back to the people. That Convention met in Richmond, and it is useless to say how long it remained in session before an ordinance of secession was passed. Every outside pressure possible, was brought to bear upon it. The Legislature of Virginia was in session during the whole time—and if not all, a large majority of the members of the Legislature were rampant secessionists. And finally, a secret, secession convention of *select simon pure* secessionists was called, of which the *people* of Virginia had nothing to do, not being allowed even the privilege of knowing, why, and for what it was called. In the mean time an orator from Virginia visited Charleston, S. C., the object of that mission our readers must divine—Secessionists began to despair as to the result of the Convention—At length, however, the news flew over the telegraph wires, that Fort Sumter had fallen—cannons were fired—speeches were made all over the town, loud huzzas! huzzas! huzzas! rent the air, and the "Tiger groans" like the hollow mutterings of devils damned, coming up from the deepest depths of perdition sounded the death knell of Virginia in our ears. All was over. Now any man who dared to speak a word in favor of the Union, was a black hearted traitor to Virginia and the South, a down right abolitionist, a Lincolnite, and ought to be driven out of the country, or hung.

If our memory serves us correctly, the news of the downfall of Fort Sumter reached Fredericksburg on Saturday evening, and the following Tuesday the Virginia Convention in secret session passed the Ordinance of secession, which sealed the fate—the downfall of the greatest State of the Union.

The action of the Convention was yet to come before the people. All were urged to go to the polls and vote, and present a bold front to the North, and this would prevent war and secure peace. Those who had been union men, if they voted the secession ticket, and professed conversion to the *glorious* doctrine of secession, were to be marked as hypocrites, [illegible] and refused to vote, they were *traitors* and should be *spotted*—a seal of black reprobation was to be stamped on them and their children through all coming time If they voted for the Union, they were abolitionists, and ought to be driven out of Virginia, and the whole South.

It was likewise urged, that because the vote in the Convention was almost unanimous, there being only an insignificant minority of about six or seven votes, four of whom voted against the Ordinance, one, perhaps, was sick, and one, or two being absent; therefore, the entire people ought by all means to vote for the ratification of the action of the Convention. But when the injunction of secrecy was removed in June following, and the facts developed, there were upwards of *Forty* members who never did vote for the Ordinance of secession at all. And yet we were told it was almost a unanimous vote. This was a political swindle.

Nor was this all. The Convention in the stead of adjourning, and letting the people at once decide the question for themselves, sent Congressmen to Montgomery and tied Virginia on to the Southern Confederacy, before the day of election. This called forth the following remarks from our pen which appeared in the Banner of May the second, next to the last number we published.

"Is it not an alarming usurpation of authority, that the Virginia Convention should have appointed gentlemen to the Congress of the Confederate States at all? Was this the purpose for which the Virginia Convention was called? We did not so understand it. Is it not an alarming usurpation of power, that the Virginia Convention should unite the destinies of the Old Dominion with the Confederate States of America, before the vote of the citizens of the Old Dominion is taken on the question? Are a million of freemen to be bartered and sold, and handed over to other authorities, without being consulted, and without their knowledge or consent, by a Convention of men elected by the people, to transact other and different matters? If we understood the subject, the Convention was called together, to decide the passage of an ordinance of secession, or non-secession; after which, the action of the Convention was to be referred back to the *sovereign people* for their ratification or rejection. The whole matter is pre-arranged, and virtually *fixed*, and then the people are called on to vote on all the questions together. If this be the beginnings of our *new order* of things, what will the end be?"

These are facts, which every citizen of intelligence in this community knows to be true. And because we exposed the system of wicked swindling, the political cheat imposed upon the people, we were admonished to beware, how, and what we wrote. We had been treated with indignity and insulted beyond measure more than a month before this, when in justice to ourself [illegible] held a public meeting in the Court House,' and a powerful effort was made to raise a mob and break up the meeting, the ridiculous conduct of our opponents on that occasion, beggars all description, and while we were addressing our fellow-citizens and warning them of the awful dangers ahead, if Virginia did secede, some one in the crowd threw an egg at us. But we felt, and knew that we were pleading the interest of our blessed country; and, therefore, silently endured the insult. This happened one month before Virginia seceded. In the meantime, before the day of election came off, thousands of troops from other States came pouring into Virginia and were stationed in most of the cities and towns in the State. Fredericksburg was litterally filled with them.

The day of election came, and we had determined not to vote, nor go to the Court House at all; during the day, however, one of our prominent citizen called on us and invited us out of our office, to tell us frankly, candidly, and most sincerely as a true friend, that unless we went and voted, our standing, influence, and all our prospects, even for living in the community, were blighted, and blasted, and we would be called a traitor, and a tory, and that in years to come it would be thrown up to our children, &c., &c., like it was in the old Revolutionary war. Knowing that our vote could effect nothing either the one way or the other, so far as the destiny of Virginia was concerned, late in the evening we went to the Court House, and stated to the Commissioners that we were no convert to secession, that we *despised* secession, but that we were in Virginia, and would go with Virginia, and that if they considered this a vote they could take it Immediately, they called out our name and cried out "ratification."

Since the day of election for the ratification of Virginia's secession, what have we either said or done to cause any one, however, stupid, to think that we had changed our views on the subject of secession? Have we delivered any secession speeches? No Have we prayed any secession prayers? God knows we have not. Have we argued the cause of secession? No. Have we asked for any office in the Southern Confederacy? No. Have we not uniformly said to all persons, at all times, and in all places, at home and abroad on the streets, in the stores, and everywhere, and always, that we despised secession? And that because we felt a devotion for the South, which no blinded secessionist could feel; therefore we opposed secession.

What have we done? We have been slanderously reported, as having held secret Union meetings for the purpose of plotting treason against the Southern-Confederacy. This is infamously false. We have been treated with indignity, and attempts have been made by certain characters to insult us, who were themselves beneath contempt. We have been slandered at home and abroad, simply because we used our [illegible] we are threatened with a rope, if ever the time comes, and an opportunity is offered

What have we done? We opened a private boarding house last winter as a matter of necessity to keep from starvation. We treated the poor soldiers the very best we could, we did this because we were sorry for them. We did it, for their sake, for the sake of their parents and friends, for the sake of humanity and our common christianity, and we feel sorry, that we were not able to do more for them and better by them, than what we did. This is our inconsistency, our disloyalty to the South—our treason.

What has secession done for Virginia and the South? It has inaugurated civil war—It has filled the whole south with the wildest anarchy and confusion—It has desolated our cities, towns, and villages, and laid waste the most beautiful, wealthy, and prosperous portions of our state—It has filled our hospitals with the sick, the dying, and the dead—It has made widows and orphans of unknown thousands—It has opened a fountain of sorrow affliction, and death without a paralel in the history of the wide world over—It has reduced the wealthy to a state of compartive poverty, and made the poor, still poorer—It has brought Canada, not only to our doors, but into our very midst. The Confederate States seceded from the Union to "get their rights," and the negroes are seceding from their masters to "enjoy their rights," and the desolating work of secession is still going on. We are doing what we can, to arrest it, in its onward and ruinous course. "But rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."—There are those, who still seem determined to resist in their own ruin, and if possible the ruin of all others. What we ask, will life be worth, after our dear children, our neighbors, friends, and relatives are all killed out, our country left in ruins and all reduced to a state of want and abject poverty. Our fellow-citizens may scorn us, persecute us, and curse us now, but in after years, when the whole affair is wound up, and the great excitement of secession and war shall have passed away and men begin to think, then a reaction will take place, and posterity will do us justice. May God in His infinite mercy and eternal goodness save us from these awful calamities, and that right early!

☞ We have written the above article, because we learned that it is being reported through town, that before the Federals arrived in Fredericksburg we were one of the most rampant secessionists, but as soon as they came we turned right over to their side. This is the reason why we have stated some few facts. If we can secure paper and ink, by the help of God and our fellow-citizens, we shall, write many things which we trust will be of service to the people. Read, and Think!

☞ Job Work, neatly and promptly executed at the office of the Christian Banner. No work de-[illegible]

Virginia the Battle Field.

Is it not strange, that Virginians are so totally blinded to their own interests, and should have suffered themselves to be imposed upon as they have been, by the shrewd political leaders of the Gulf States? Before this war commenced, we predicted that Virginia would be the great battle field of this wicked revolution, and repeatedly said, that if the Gulf States had been geographically located as Virginia was, they would never have seceded. The people of the Gulf States knew that Virginia and all the *border* States, would be a *bastion*, a mighty bulwark of defence between themselves and the enemy. They had never supposed that the war would be carried into their own territories. No, this was not their calculation.

When the Southern soldiers came into Virginia and to Fredericksburg last Spring twelve months ago, they said that they had come to defend the soil of Virginia This we regarded as an insult to the intelligence of Virginians—a solemn mockery. They came to meet the enemy on Virginia soil, to keep him off of their own soil, and out of their own territories. This we knew, and the leaders of this revolution in the cotton and sugar States knew the same thing; and yet, it was considered treasonable for any one openly to express such an opinion. Let any one now take a calm survey of the territorial boundaries of Virginia.

At least two thirds of her beautiful territory, are in the actual possession of the Federal Government while the small portion of Eastern Virginia, which is not yet invaded, and in the centre of which, stand the capital of the State and the capital of the Confederate States, is completely environed, pent up between two powerful, advancing armies, and still, there are those in our midst, professing to be wise, who say, "we'll whip them off of every inch of Virginia soil, and make them rue the day they ever sot their feel upon it."

If there were the shade of the shadow of a reason for such a conclusion as this, then men might talk, and be listened to, and respected by men of common sense But when we take into consideration the fact, that the whole of the border of eastern Virginia from the mountains to the Chesapeake bay and round to Suffolk, including the towns and cities of Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Fortress Monroe, Hampton, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Suffolk, to say nothing of Winchester, and the whole territory of North Western and the mountain regions of Virginia, are all in the actual possession of the Federal Army, what foundation is there upon which any *sane* man can possibly build the shadow of a hope for the re-taking, holding, and re-possessing every inch of Virginia territory?"

It was confidently affirmed by the professedly *knowing ones* in our community, until within a few weeks past, that the Federal Army *never* would, nor could get into Fredericksburg, and if we dared to express a contrary opinion, they were ruled out of *loyal* and *decent* society, as traitors, abolitionists, and black-hearted submissionists.

We have always argued, that it is much easier to keep an armed enemy out of our House, than to give him possession, and afterwards to whip him out, and keep him out Twelve months ago, the Confederate Army was fresh and buoyant with the hope of driving *submissionists* and Yankees out of Virginia, and of keeping them off of her territory. If the Southern Army with Beauregard, Lee, Johnson, Floyd, Wise, and a host of others to lead it on, with all their munitions of war, Commissary stores, strong fortifications, railroads &c., &c., were not able to keep the enemy from advancing into the interior of our State, how can they expect, or hope now, since they have destroyed railroads, burnt railroad bridges, demolished towns, committed to the flames millions of dollars worth of Commissary stores, spiked and abandoned hundreds of their best and largest cannons, evacuated and forsaken their strong fortifications, committed to the flames millions of dollars worth of cotton, and well nigh all their navy, and finally with an army of *conscript* soldiers, to drive the Federal Army off of every inch of Virginia territory, re-take, re-possess, and re-hold it? The idea is absurd in thought! And when we try to get our fellow-citizens to reason on the subject, and lay facts before them, which are as plain as Heaven's own light, we are insulted and treated with the utmost indignity and contempt.

With what heart can men fight, who have been *forced*, literally *dragged* from their business, their homes, their wives and children, their fathers and mothers, their brothers and sisters, their friends and all that's dear to them, to go away down South to fight and to defend, the negroes, cotton, and sugar plantations of those wicked politicians, who have forced this common ruin upon us all, while they themselves are living at their ease, rolling in splendor, and living in luxury at home, and would consider themselves degraded to associate with the poor soldier with his knapsack on his back and his musket on his shoulder, and would scorn to permit him to sit and eat at their elegantly furnished and sumptuous tables?

Think of the many precious lives, that have been lost in Western Virginia, on the plains of Manassas, at Yorktown, at Williamsburg, of the bloody battle that is to be fought near Richmond, together with the great anticipated battle that is to take place in a few days at some point between Fredericksburg and Richmond. How many precious, undying souls are to be dashed in a moment into eternity, and perhaps without any preparation to meet their final Judge. And still, preachers, communicants at the altar of the peaceful Jesus, parents, fathers and mothers, wives, brothers and sisters, condemn the man who dares to expose the wickedness of the [illegible]

their husbands and sons from ruin. The Lord have mercy upon the wicked stupidity of mortals.

'Tis strange that things are so, but so they are, and it seems that there are certain clicks and parties who are determined that things shall thus go on, until our whole State is desolated, our children and friends all killed and murdered out.—Look at the desolation of all the counties between the Rappahannock, and Potomac rivers, at the condition of the country from Hampton to Richmond city, and what will the condition of the country from Fredericksburg to Richmond be, when this war shall have closed? Desolation and ruin meet the eye of the beholder at every point. Nevertheless, there are those who talk, and enter into wild speculation as to the future course to be pursued, and what *must* be done, and what *shall* be done, and unless all others submit to their dictations and mandates, they are ruled out, as traitors, abolitionists, *submissionists*, and are marked, spotted, proscribed, ostracised, and ought to be, and will be driven out of the country or hung when the time comes.

In conclusion, we venture the prediction, *That every foot of territory embraced within the boundary lines of Virginia, when she seceded, will again be brought back into the Union.*"

This is only a question of time. Mark, the prediction.

FLAG OF TRUCE.

An officer from the Confederate Army came within the lines of the Federal Army on last Sunday, the 18th inst., near Fredericksburg, under a *flag* of truce, who was received by the Federal pickets, blind-folded and brought into town and carried to the Headquarters of Gen. Patrick at the Farmers' Bank, thence to Gen. McDowell's Headquarters, at Chatham, on the opposite side of the Rappahannock river. Immediately afterwards he returned, and was again conducted to Gen. Patrick's Headquarters, where he remained a short time and was then conducted out of the Federal Army by the Federal pickets. The object of this mission is all a mystery to out-siders. It is said that Gen. McDowell refused to have anything to do with the matter at all.

SECOND EDITION, SECOND NO. In addition to the copies of the second Number of the Christian Banner, which were published last Saturday, 17th inst., we shall work off about two thousand copies of the second edition to-day Tuesday, the 20th inst., in which will be found the latest news by telegraph—Having preserved the form, we take out old, and insert new matter. All who may wish to obtain copies of the Banner will please call at the Banner office, or at the Editors office on Main St. 2 sqrs. above the Rail road.

☞ This Tuesday the 20th, instant, the Washington Locomotive *Wm. M. Baldwin* builder, Engineer, Malcom Mason, crossed the rail-road bridge, over the Rappahannock river at Fredericksburg. This is the bridge that was burned by the Confederate Army on their leaving Fredericksburg on the morning of the 18th, ultimo. This bridge was built in the short space of about ten days from the time the work was commenced Never have we witnessed such expedition in the way of rail-road building. There will be a regular daily line, running constantly from Fredericksburg to Washington city.

☞ Being unable to obtain newspaper from the North, we are compelled to use brown paper as a substitute. We are laboring under every conceivable difficulty imaginable, but hope finally to overcome them all. Be this as it may, we feel confident that a generous and enlightened public will make every possible allowance for us in our present straitened circumstances. We must have ink and *paper*, or stop publishing the Banner.

☞ We learn that the Federal Army has it in contemplation while remaining in Fredericksburg to finish the Monument over the grave of Mrs. Washington, the mother of George Washington, the father of our country. We sincerely hope this may be done We are informed that Gen. McDowell has already appointed a committee, who have examined the monument, and will probably commence the work immediately.

Reconnoissance up the Mattapony River.

In an Official report to the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, Lieut. Commanding T. S. Phelphs says.

"Upon my second arrival at West Point, at 9.30 p. m., Capt. Shankland, of the Currituck, reported that he had landed and hoisted the Union flag, and had found about fifty prisoners of the rebels, (mostly women and children,) living in a horrid condition, in sheds, and without the common necessaries of life. These people were residents of Elizabeth City county, and sent here by General Magruder on account of their Union proclivities. I at once decided to remain and hold possession of the place, protect the people, and prevent a further destruction of property by the rebels, until the naval division.

Lieut. Phelps in the coast survey steamer Corwin, penetrated up the Mattapony thirty-six miles above West Point, finding white flags hoisted on both shores of the river, and the people generally apparently pleased to see the Union flag once more among them.

☞ Governor Johnson, of Tennessee, has informed the directors of the State Bank at Nashville, who gave up the assets of the institution to the rebel leaders, that they must make a return of every cent of the amount which belonged to the State. The directors are wealthy, and have large interest in and around Nashville.

NEW YORK, May 5.—The steamship Northern Light has arrived from Aspinwall

Skirmish South of Fredericksburg.

14 CONFEDERATES CAPTURED.

A sharp dash was made at the Confederate pickets on Sunday morning last, the 11th inst. by Maj. Duffeds Battalion of the Harris Light Cavalry, connected with General Patrick's Brigade, just back of Fredericksburg, in which fourteen Confederate pickets and three horses were captured. As the prisoners were being brought to town, the Confederate Cavalry and infantry sallied from the woods and hills and made a bold rush to re-capture the prisoners, and would have been successful had not the alarm been given to the regiments composing the Brigade, which had been moved over the river the night before.— The 21st New York, Col. Rodgers; the 20th New York, Col. Pratt; and some companies of the 23d New York, Col. Hoffman; and the 35th New York, Col. Lord, by a double quick march of three miles, threw their line of battle immediately between the prisoners and the advancing force of the Confederates. The 35th being in the open field to the left deployed as skirmishers and advanced steadily towards the Confederates, who retreated gradually back to the woods, and final left.

A shot aimed at General Patrick, who was directing the movements of the forces, struck a Courier's horse near by him, and killed the horse almost instantly. The Confederates again made a slight sortie down near the Camp of the Brigade in the evening, but were dispersed by Capt. Camp, company of the 65th N. Y. led by the Capt. and Col. Lord.

From the movements of this Brigade in so gallantly throwing themselves to front of the enemy on Sunday, we judge that the enemy who undertakes to drive them over the river will be a long time in doing it.

SPECTATOR.

Union Soldiers

On Sunday night the 4th inst., before the Pontoon bridge was entirely completed, Capt. Geo. W. Flowers of Col. Lord's New York Regiment marched his company across the bridge, passing to the shore on planks laid endwise from the Pontoon. The next morning a number of citizens flocked down to see them, and the Old Stars and Stripes unfurled to the breeze once more in the venerable old town of Fredericksburg. The conduct of the officers and soldiers of the company was courteous and respectful, commanding the admiration of the citizen spectators who witnessed it. We learn that some of our female citizens promenaded in front of their guard lines with *secession flags* in their hats. After Capt. Flowers was relieved by a company of the 23d Regiment his men were permitted to visit through the town, and so far as we have learned deported themselves well.

Thursday the company made a reconnoissance on the front, meeting the Confederate pickets four miles from town, making one arrest and obtaining much information, as we learn in regard to the position of the Confederates, they brought in two prisoners from the 1st South Carolina Vol. Regiment. The company has recrossed the river to the camp of their Regiment. The discipline and soldiery bearing of this company speaks well for the Regiment to which they belong. We devoutly wish that all the Federal soldiers may act thus courteously towards all our citizens.

Sloop and Four Persons Captured.

On last Saturday the 10th inst., the sloop Georgia Anna, Capt. Evans, was captured opposite Strother's wharf on the Rappahannock river.— Capt. Evans, the owner of the Sloop, his two sons, one about eighteen, and the other about fifteen years old, and Jas. T. Barker, Esq., had been down the river on a fishing expedition, and on their return to Fredericksburg, the Confederate pickets from the south side of the river fired into the vessel and made her heave too. The Federal pickets on the opposite side of the river, hearing the guns rushed to the river, but before they arrived, the Confederate pickets had captured the whole party, Capt. Evans, his two sons, and Mr. Barker. The Federal pickets took charge of the vessel. No life was lost, so far as known.

☞ Every cause must and will produce its legitimate effect; if, therefore, persons do not wish to be insulted, they must not provoke insults.— We make this remark by way of a friendly hint, to all those, who are seeking notoriety, by offering insults to others, thereby rendering themselves supremely ridiculous in the estimation of all wise and prudent persons both male and female.

☞ When we closed our office twelve months ago we had on hand a very small lot of paper, all of which we worked off last week, with the exception of enough for about two hundred copies. If by any possibility we can obtain means to purchase paper and ink, we shall continue the publication of the Banner, otherwise, we shall be compelled to close our office, and suspend its publication. We simply make this statement, that the public may know the reason, should we not be able to continue the publication of the Banner.

☞ For want of advertisements, and to save labor, we republish our editorials of last week, on the forth page of this weeks paper. It is not to be expected, that the whole paper can be filled with solid matter every week. We hope as soon as we get fairly on the way, to obtain a quantity of advertisements. Will not all, who are friendly to our cause, do all they can to advance the Banner!

☞ The Fredericksburg Railroad bridge, which is now being built across the Rappahannock river will be completed in a very few days. Gen McDowell, we learn, is hurrying [illegible] the work

GUERRILLA WARFARE.—This is a kind of irregular mode of carrying on war, by the constant attacks of independent bands. It was adopted in the north of Spain during the peninsular war. In a word, Guerrilla warfare, is nothing more nor less than a legalized system of plundering, highway robbery, murder, and assassination and none but human *demonized* would inaugurate a mode of warfare so revolting to humanity, civilization, christianity, and the honorable modes of warfare.

☞ We learn that some cowardly scoundrels are rendering themselves notoriously and eternally infamous, by sneaking through the country during the dark hours of night and by violence, taking men from their homes, their wives and their children, and draging them either into the army, or having them sent to Richmond for imprisonment, simply because they won't shout hosannas to Secession. There is an hour of terrible retribution awaiting such characters.

SHOT.—On Wednesday the 14th inst., Jerred Beech of Co. O, 8th Regt P. R. Vol., was shot, in the county of Stafford, in the neighborhood of the Gold Mines, whilst on picket duty, by some unknown person. Matters are being brought to a terrible issue.

☞ We would call attention to the advertisement of Mr. S Kleinberger, Optician who is associated with the Optical Establishment of Franklin & Co. Washington, D. C., who has the best assortment of Spectacles, mounted in Gold, Silver, Steel, Shell, and Military Field Glasses.

LATEST FROM NORFOLK.

BUSINESS REOPENED THERE.

Richmond to be Defended to the Last!

NORFOLK, May 12—The city continues very quiet; most of the stores are still closed, but expect to open in a day or two, except in those cases where the occupants have left the city with the army. Some excitement still prevails, but it is supposed that in a few days, when communication is fully opened with Northern ports, the confidence will be fully restored.

The prices of almost everything are astonishingly high. Candles, for instance, of a miserable quality, 60 cents per pound; common brown wrapping paper and envelopes, 60 cents per package; brown sugar 29 cents per pound.

A number of stores will be opened, however, in a few days by parties from Old Point and Baltimore, who will bring supplies of articles much wanted here.

The post office and custom house will shortly be re-opened.

Very little Union sentiment is openly expressed. All over the city our soldiers, officers as well as the privates, freely talk with the citizens, which must produce a good effect.

All the fortifications in the vicinity are occupied by the Union troops, and all the public property is in the possession of the Federal authorities.

The policy of the Confederate Government appears to be to concentrate their troops at Richmond, and [illegible] that all the Gulf States will be given up before Virginia; that Richmond will be held to the very last. All insist that a desperate resistance will be made there, if at no place else.

Several negroes arrived from Suffolk this morning. They report no troops, guns or fortification there or on the road this side of the railroad.

Among most of the citizens there is little confidence in the officers of the Confederate Government.

The Confederate notes are refused in many instances. Gold and silver are welcomed with enthusiasm by all classes of the population, many of whom have not seen either for many months.

Elizabeth river, between Norfolk and Portsmouth, is of a deep coffee color, on account of the tobacco thrown overboard. Large quantities were recovered to-day.

General Viele, the military governor, pursues a course calculated to produce the impression of the superiority of the Federal Government, and intends throwing no obstacle in the way of private business or the enforcement of ordinances of the city government.

The Day Book newspaper will be continued as an afternoon instead of a morning paper on the condition that it shall be respectful in its tone. The first number, printed to-day, contains nothing except extracts from Northern papers and editorial statement of the facts of the evacuation and occupation of the city.

NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

[From the Raleigh Standard.]

We learn that our pickets below Kinston, near Tuscarora, Captain Andrews' company, Second cavalry, had two sharp skirmishes with the enemy's pickets on Sunday and Monday last. On Sunday they killed four Yankees, and three on Monday. Captain Andrews had his horse shot, but we hear of no other casualties on our side.

☞ The Western Virginia Legislature assembled in Wheeling on the 5th inst., and Governor Pierpont delivered his message on the same day. The message is almost entirely devoted to the new State question, and takes strong ground in favor of the partition of the Old Dominion.

FOR A SHORT TIME ONLY!

S. KLEINBERGER
optician from the Optical Establishment
FRANKLIN & CO., 244
Penn. Avenue, Washington, D. C.,
has arrived in this city and opened a Office for the sale of his Improved Spectacles with Periscopic Senses: A large Assortment of
FIRST CLASS
Military Field Glasses, Compasses, Marine and Spy-Glasses, kept on hand.
Office—Main Street, At Mr. Cox's Stand below the Exchange, Fredericksburg, Va.
may 17, 1862.

Dr. J. B. GARLAND,
PHYSICIAN AND DENTIST,
MAIN STREET, FREDERICKSBURG, Va.
May 17—3meaw.

OFFICIAL.

By the President of the United States of America:

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, by my Proclamation of the nineteenth of April, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, it was declared that the ports of certain States, including those of Beaufort, in the State of North Carolina, Port Royal, in the State of South Carolina, and New Orleans, in the State of Louisiana, were, for reasons therein set forth, intended to be placed under blockade; and whereas the said ports of Beaufort, Port Royal, and New Orleans have since been blockaded: but as the blockade of the same ports may now be safely relaxed with advantage to the interests of commerce:

Now, therefore, be it known that I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, pursuant to the authority in me vested by the fifth section of the act of Congress, approved on the 13th of July last, entitled "An act further to provide for the collection of duties on imports, and for other purposes," do hereby declare that the blockade of said ports of Beaufort, Port Royal, and New Orleans shall so far cease and determine, from and after the first day of June next, that commercial intercourse with those ports, except as to persons and things and information contraband of war, may, from that time, be carried on, subject to the laws of the United States, and to the limitations and in pursuance of the regulations which are prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury in his order of this date, which is appended to this Proclamation.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this twelfth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and of the independence of the United States the eighty sixth.

[L. S.]

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President:
WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

THE OFFICIAL REGULATIONS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
May 12, 1862.

Regulations relating to trade with ports opened by proclamation:

1. To vessels clearing from foreign ports, and destined to ports opened by the proclamation of the President of the United States of this date, namely, Beaufort, in North Carolina, Port Royal, in South Carolina, and New Orleans, in Louisiana, licenses will be granted by Consuls of the United States, upon satisfactory evidence that the vessels so licensed will convey no persons, property, or information contraband of war, either to or from the said ports, which licenses shall be exhibited to the Collector of the port to which said vessels may be respectively bound, immediately on arrival, and, if required, to any officer in charge of the blockade; and, on leaving either of the said ports, every vessel will be required to have a clearance from the Collector of the Customs, according to law, showing no violation of the conditions of the license. Any violation of said conditions will involve the forfeiture and condemnation of the vessel and cargo, and the exclusion of all parties concerned from any further privilege of entering the United States during the war for any purpose whatever.

2. To vessels of the United States, clearing coastwise for the ports aforesaid, licenses can only be obtained from the Treasury Department.

3. In all other respects, the existing blockade remains in full force and effect, as hitherto established and maintained, nor is it relaxed by the proclamation except in regard to the ports to which the relaxation is by that instrument expressly applied.

S. P. CHASE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

ITEMS OF NEWS, &c.

ROBERT E. SCOTT KILLED—The Hon. Robert E. Scott, of Fauquier county, Va., was killed on Saturday, at Frank Smith's, near Greenwich, Fauquier county, Va. A couple of Geary's or Blenker's men, supposed to be deserters, having committed many depredations through the country—among other things violating a women, (or attempting to do so,) and Robert E. Scott, with Winter Payne and others (some ten or twelve,) made an attempt to capture them at Smith's. In approaching the house Mr. Scott and his overseer (Dulany) were shot dead by the deserters. The others ran, and Scott's double-barrel gun was afterwards broken over him by the villains. Their remains were brought to Warrenton on Saturday with Mr. Scott's gun. The deserters escaped. This affair is deplorable indeed.—*Star.*

The right of secession is the right of National suicide. And is this right so precious that the South is willing to pour out priceless blood and treasure, and spread a pall of mourning over the land to establish it?—*Nashville Union.*

If the present war is not one of races, there have been many trials of speed and bottom.—*Cin. Times.*

In which Gov. Harris carried off the palm for speed, and Humphrey Marshall for bottom. Kentucky and Tennessee "both divided the crown."

☞ A watchmaker of Cheapside, London, pays one thousand guineas—upwards of $5,000—for an advertisement covering the last page of the catalogue book of the great exhibition.

It is said that some of our parsons are so deeply infected with secessionism that they allow it to show its ugly head and cloven foot and barbed tail in their prayers and sermons. Such churches are, in Mrs. Partington's graphic language, paradox abominations where the Gospel is dispensed with."

☞ Statistics show that there are now about 50,000 Chinamen in California. Some 30,000 of them are in the mines. In one way and another they paid, in 1861, to other persons, and to the Federal, State and local governments, $12,975,909

Russia

The Russian Minister of the Interior has made two imperial propositions—one for accelerating the liberation of the serfs, and the other for creating a system of parliamentary representation. The proposition has been referred to the Council of the Empire.

France.

It was rumored that the French police have arrested twelve hundred workmen on the charge of sedition.

Italy.

Great delight was manifested in all parts of Italy at the recent language of Palmerston and Gladstone in the Italian debate in the British House of Commons.

Austria.

The Austrian government have sent two naval engineers, to America to inspect the Monitor and Merrimac and the new coast fortifications.

[From the Richmond Dispatch.]

Fight on the Peninsula—The War News

An official dispatch was yesterday received at the War Department giving intelligence of a severe engagement near Williamsburg, on Monday, in which the enemy was repulsed with a heavy loss in killed and wounded. They also lost twelve pieces of artillery and 900 prisoners. The fight lasted from 7 o'clock to 11 o'clock a. m.

The troops engaged on our side consisted of a portion of the division of Gen. Longstreet.

An official letter from General Johnston states that a "handsome affair" took place at Williamsburg on Monday. The enemy attacked our rear guard in great force, and were driven back to the woods about a mile.

Our latest information is complete upon the main points of the result of the engagement.— Our loss in killed and wounded was two hundred and twenty. The Federal prisoners captured by our forces numbered six hundred and twenty-three, and the number of field pieces eleven. The extent of their casualties is not correctly known, but it is believed that their loss amounts to upwards of a thousand in killed and wounded.— They numbered six thousand strong and were deployed in a skirt of wood, opposite our position, from which they were driven, subjected to a disastrous fire from the right, left and front.— The prisoners taken were yesterday on their way to this city, and were expected to reach here last night. They were but a few miles from the city late in the afternoon. They were marched by land under guard.

Among others killed or wounded we have the names of the following officers:—Col. Ward, of the Fourth Florida regiment; Major Wm. H. Palmer, of the First Virginia regiment, (and son of Mr. Wm. Palmer, of this city,) and Capt. Jack Humphreys, of the Seventeenth Virginia regiment. Wounded—Col Corse, of the Seventeenth Virginia regiment; Col. Kemper of the Seventh Virginia regiment; and Col. Garland, of Lynchburg severely.

Another heavy battle took place yesterday near Barnsville, in the county of New Kent, but with what result was not known, as the courier who brought the intelligence to this city left at 12 o'clock. The enemy landed their forces from gun-boats (twenty-four in number) at or near West Point.

The number engaged on either side is not known, but that of the enemy was supposed to be very large. A general engagement of the two armies is expected. The loss on both sides in the fight of yesterday was very heavy, ours believed to be not less than 1,000 up to twelve o'clock. The enemy had up to that hour been driven back three times to within range of their gun-boats.

LATER.

At a late hour last night we learned some further particulars of the fight on Monday.

Gen. Early is mortally wounded.

Gen. Anderson of North Carolina, we believe, is killed.

Col. Mott, of Mississippi killed.

Gen. Raine: slightly wounded.

Captain Echols of Lynchburg, slightly wounded.

Captain Irwin, of Scale's N. C. regiment, wounded.

The First Virginia regiment was badly cut up. Out of 200 men in the fight, some 80 or 90 are reported killed or wounded.

Col. Kemper's regiment suffered terribly, though we have no account of the extent of the casualties.

We learn that Gen. Magruder has been for several days quite sick at Westover, on James river.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

The British Press Anticipating the Fall of New Orleans—Gloomy Forebodings of the London Times—What the Feudal Lord's think of the Struggle &c. &c.,

The London *Times* editorially expatiates on the *importance* of the struggle for New Orleans, and says the occupation of that place by the Federals would be tourniquet tightened over the great arteries of the seceded states.

The London *Herald* (conservative organ) has a sarcastic editorial on the protracted continuance of the American struggle, federal predictions to the contrary notwithstanding. It sees no signs of exhaustion in the North, and no signs of discouragement in the South, and believes that no probable military achievement on either side would suffice to bring either party to terms. With these views, our commercial and polititical policy should be regulated on the conviction that a speedy peace is hopeless.

The *Herald* further says that the government of Washington should be permitted to have one more chance, and, if they fail, the great Powers should peremptorily interfere on behalf of the general well being of mankind. That this has not been done before is owing to the generosity of England, as France was ready; but it is time that England should cease to stand between her own people and the relief they need.

FORTRESS MONROE, VA.,
May 10, 1862.

There was much excitement here last night and to-day, and I have got hold of much important information; but it is chiefly such as I am forbidden to use, consequently I dare not send it to you. The military authorities are tolerably strict with newspaper correspondents, but perhaps none too much so for the public good. I am not disposed to complain. President Lincoln and his party are still here, and you may rest assured that their prolonged visit means something. Some very important movements of our forces—both land and naval—have marked the past twenty four hours; others are now in progress, and others still to come. What they are I am not at liberty to state, but you may expect stirring and cheering news soon. Union forces will be in full possession of York and James rivers to the head of navigation in each, within a week from this time is not an extravagant prophecy by any means.

Why the rebels should have abandoned Yorktown when they did, is a question that puzzles our military men very much, for there they were almost invincible.

An examination of the works in which they were intrenched showed to have been one of the strongest fortifications in the world. An artillery major, who has seen much service, both in Europe and America, is of opinion that it would have cost us fifty thousand men to have taken the place by storm. Many others agree with him. It seems incredible that the rebels should have peaceably abandoned such a position, and can be accounted for only on the supposition that they did it in order to fall back with all their forces for the protection of Richmond. This, as matters now stand, it will be impossible for them to do. Richmond must and will be ours in the course of a very few days—not without an effort, not without some very hard fighting perhaps, but still the rebel capital must and will fall into our hands.

The weather has grown to be quite sultry, and the roads are very dusty and disagreeable. But for the interesting and exciting events that are transpiring, even a temporary stay here would be intolerable. INCIDENTAL.

Farewell my son, farewell!
On thy noble purpose go;
A father's heart, what tongue can tell,
Feels for thy weal and woe.

Go, where thy Country calls,
Amid the battle flames;
Go, where the leaden bullets fall,
Maintain our country's fame,

As oft' before the Throne:
I bend the suppliant knee,
To make my wants to Jesus known;
Dear son, I'll pray for thee.

And if inclined to stray,
In paths of the world's wild glee,
Still think, O! think though far away,
A father prays for thee.

And when death's gloomy shades
Life's flickering lamp shall dim,
In Heaven above who prayed for thee,
There may you meet with him.

TERTIAN TAYLOR.

The Sea Islands and Coast of South Carolina.

A correspondent thinks "it doubtful if any one of the ruling governments of Central America will consent to the alienation of any portion of its territory for the purpose of building upon it an independent free negro community." We also doubt it, and furthermore, if such community is to be in fact a colonial dependency of this country, the attempt to establish it will excite jealousy and resistance in Europe. For the present, so far as Great Britain is concerned, it is expressly contrary to the Clayton and Bulwer Treaty. We believe that Central America presents a good field for colored emigration, but to establish a distinct negro nationality there, is not practicable, or if so, only after long delays.

Our correspondent then goes on to make the following suggestion, which we give upon the principle of allowing the largest liberty to well intended discussion:

"Let all the islands extending along the coast of South Carolina, being as they have been, the property of the traitors, who have been hatching treason for thirty-four years past, be confiscated and set apart for the use and proprietorship of escaped contrabands and for free negro emigrants from the north. Let these islands be set apart by our Government as the assylum and refuge of all free people of color, and of contrabands who have become free by the acts of treason perpetrated by their late owners — Let them be armed for self defence against all aggressors and against all invading slave hunters, Let them man the coast forts of their torrid clime, and cultivate the soil for their own behoof. Their insular position will add to their security. As their numbers increase, let them have annexed to their territory all the low alluvial land extending from the Santee on the north, to the [illegible] on the south, and for a depth into the interior, of, say 100 miles from the ocean. Such an extent of domain will be ample enough to support on its surface all the negroes of the United States, and in the course of time and of culture, several fold more millions. Let what few proprietors there may be within these limits who have remained faithful to the unity of our nation or who have been forced against their will into arms against it, be indemnified by appropriations of Western lands. Let all within these limits who have willingly embarked in war against us have their estates confiscated, and their lands turned over to the negroes, to be collected there from all ports of the United States."—*National Republican.*

The military news of this morning is not as unexpected as it is important. The last lingering hope of the partial safety of New Orleans is extinguished. The city has certainly fallen; and great has been the fall thereof. It is the most disastrous woe that has yet befallen the Confederacy; more disastrous, indeed, than all preceding misfortunes combined. The loss of Kentucky, of Tennessee, of Missouri, of two-thirds of Virginia, were, singly or collectively, but trifles in comparison. The extent of country accessible from New Orleans by gunboats is greater than the entire country before lost to the Confederacy. The appearance of two gunboats before New Orleans seems to have been the signal for a general surrender of all the forts and fortifications guarding its approaching. All have gone overboard, with guns, ammunition, stores, garrisons, everything. General Duncan, lately commanding at Fort Jackson, is on parole, his command in captivity.—*Richmond Examiner.*

Prisoners sent to Columbus.—On Friday last, forty one rebel prisoners, confined in the Atheneum at Wheeling, were transferred to Camp Chase prison, Columbus, O. They are variously charged with being bushwhackers, horse thieves, robbing Union men, pressing Union men into the service, &c. They are held for criminal prosecution and will be dealt with, according to law, as soon as the county courts in Western Virginia are organized. *Nat. Republican*

The Invasion of Mexico.

MADRID, April 19, 1862.

Spain will not, as has been reported, withdraw her troops from Mexico. They [illegible] the satisfaction demanded is obtai[illegible]

The promised blessings o[illegible] Southern Confederacy would prove, wer[illegible] Southern Confederacy established, something lik[illegible] Confederacy as a bounty promised the families of Confederate [illegible] volunteers, by the rich rebels at Nashville [illegible] Dead Sea apples, [illegible] all bubbles, fog, and

[From the Washington Republican.]

FROM GEN. McCLELLAN'S DEPARTMENT.

From the Correspondent of the Associated Press

WHITE HOUSE, VA., May 1[illegible].—The advance guard of our forces on the main road to Richmond, by way of Bottom's bridge, lost the enemy near the Chickahominy river, at that point, yesterday morning. When our troops arrived within half a mile of the bridge which is burned, they were opened upon by a brisk fire of artillery from the opposite side of the river. No one was injured. This bridge is fifteen miles from Richmond. At this point our troops will experience considerable difficulty in crossing as the country is low and swampy on both sides of the river. A reconnoisance was made by one of the gunboats with two companies of infantry under Major Willard, and one section of Ayres' battery, up the Pamunkey river, a distance of twenty-five miles from here.—At a point known as Russell Landing, they found the steamer [illegible], a propeller, and fifteen schooners [illegible]. They were laden mostly with corn, which was being unloaded.

Some [illegible] on shore stated that when the rebels heard our gunboat coming, they commenced putting the corn on board again, so as to insure its destruction. A few shells soon dispersed the [illegible] locality, when the gunboat returned to the White House.

The roads for the past three days have been almost impassable owing to the recent heavy rains. A [illegible] train was thirty-six hours in making [illegible] miles with teams doubled [illegible] the assistance furnished by a [illegible] of troops. The advance of the army from this point must be necessarily slow [illegible] loses the river transportation, requiring all the supply trains at the disposal of the Quartermaster's Department to furnish [illegible] its advance.

The b[illegible] the enemy has been destroyed [illegible] formidable obstruction placed in the way of our advance.

The Richmond *Dispatch* of the 12th instant, has a lengthy article on the evacuation of Norfolk [illegible] and the conduct of the war generally. It says by abandoning detached posts which are within reach of the enemy's fleets, and which it is therefore impossible to defend, we are enabled to concentrate powerful forces upon essential points, and to baffle the enemy in every attack of vital importance.

The [illegible] mention of a terrible panic in Richmond on Friday, on the approach of our gunboats.

This being Sunday the army of the Potomac has [illegible] its labors. The troops remain in camp, enjoying a day of rest.

From the Army of the Potomac.

GUNBOAT FIGHT ON JAMES RIVER.

INTERESTING PARTICULARS.

No official report of the gunboat affair on James river has been received at the Navy Department. The messages received on the subject indicate an opportunity to do better in the future.

The river is now clear of obstructions to within eight miles of Richmond. At that point there is a heavy battery, mounted on a high bluff, and the river is temporarily closed to navigation by sunken vessels, among which are said to be the Yorktown and Jamestown, and by piles, chains, &c.

The Monitor could not elevate her guns sufficiently to reach the high battery, which rendered her useless. The banks of the river were filled with rifled pits, from which an increased fire was poured upon the fleet, a part of which was engaged at from six hundred to a thousand yards of the main battery. After an action of four hours, the fleet finding it impracticable, under the circumstances, to silence the battery on the bluff, withdrew.

Our loss was thirteen killed and eleven wounded. Among the latter, Lieutenant Morris, in the leg by a Minie ball, but not seriously. It is expected that full particulars will be received in the morning.—*Washington Republican.*

A NOBLE CHARGE TO A JURY

It [illegible] to us that the following is worthy of the [illegible] not forgotten Wouter Von Twiller.

"If the jury believe, from the evidence, that the plaintiff and defendant were partners in the grocery and gave this note for the interest, and that the defendant paid for the note by delivering to the plaintiff a cow, which he warranted not breachy, and the warranty was broken by reason of the breachiness of the cow, and he drove the cow back and tendered her to the defendant, but the defendant refused to receive her and the plaintiff took her home again, and put a heavy yoke or poke upon her to prevent her from jumping the fence, and by reason of the yoke or poke she broke her neck and died; and if the jury believe that the defendant's interest in the grocery was worth anything, the plaintiff's note was worthless and the cow good for nothing, either for milk or beef, then the jury must find out how they will decide the case; for the court, if she understands herself are [illegible] she du—is at considerable doubt how such a case should exactly be decided."

FROM GENERAL McCLELLAN.

The following dispatch was received at the War Department yesterday:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
WHITE HOUSE, May 17, 10.30 p.m.

Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of war:

A combined naval and army expedition, under Captain Murray, U. S. N., with troops and artillery under Major Willard, and Captain Ayres, of the army, went some twenty-five miles up the Pamunkey to-day, and forced the rebels to destroy two steamers, and some twenty schooners.

The expedition was admirably managed, and all concerned deserve great credit.

We have advanced considerably to-day.

The roads are now improving.

GEO. B. McCLELLAN,
Maj. Gen. Com'g.

Washington,—The official intelligence concerning the events at Norfolk and in the vicinity of Fort Pillow has kept this community in a state of joyous excitement throughout the day.

Philadelphia, May 11.—This city has been in a fever of excitement and joy all day.—Flags are floating in every direction. The chimes of St. Stephen's Church rang a joyful [illegible].

PATIENCE.

A gentle angel wendeth,
Throughout this world of woe,
Whom God in mercy sendeth
To comfort us below.
Her looks a peace abiding
And holy love proclaim:
Oh follow then her guiding,
Sweet Patience is her name.

She leads us through this tearful
And sorrow-stricken land,
And speaks, resigned and cheerful,
Of better days at hand:
And when thou art despairing,
She bids thee cheer thy brow,
Herself thy burden sharing,
More hopeful far than thou.

She sobers into sadness
Thy grief's excessive smart,
And steeps in peace the madness
And tumult of the heart.
The darkest hour she maketh
As bright as sun at noon,
And heals each wound that acheth,
Full surely if not soon.

Thy falling tears she chides not,
But pours in healing balm;
Thy longing she derides not,
But makes devout and calm:
And when in stormy seasons
Thou askest, murmuring, why?
She giveth thee no reasons,
But smiling points on high.

To every doubt and question
She cares not to reply;
"Heaven on" is her suggestion,
"Thy resting-place is nigh."
Thus by thy side she walketh
A true and constant friend,
Not overmuch she talketh,
But thinks "O happy end!"

[From the Baltimore Clipper.]

Arrival of Sick and Wounded Soldiers.

The steamer "Commodore" arrived at Light street wharf, on Saturday afternoon, from Fortress Monroe, having on board six hundred and seventy-five wounded soldiers, the most of whom were in the battle of Williamsburg, Va. The boat first landed at Spear's wharf, but, the distance being so great from the hospitals, the Captain was ordered to haul over to Light street. Mr. L. B. Caldwell, and one or two other gentlemen interested in the Richmond steamboat line, on learning the object, kindly tendered the use of their wharf, when the "Commodore" made fast, and the wounded, as soon as possible, removed to the Adams House and National Hotel Hospitals.—Those able to walk were escorted, and others who were unable to walk, were conveyed in carriages, &c.

Among the members were several "rebels" who were taken prisoners at the same battle; they all fared alike and expressed their surprise at being placed on the same footing with Union soldiers, when they were told that there was still humanity in Baltimore. After they were all made comfortable, the "rebels," about 40 in number, were conveyed to the jail and properly cared for. About 150 of the Federals not dangerously wounded, were taken to Patterson's Park, 334 to the National Hotel, and 159 to the Adams House, several in the hospital we are told cannot possibly survive, as their wounds are of such a nature that medical skill is of no avail, although they [illegible] Dr. Taylor, the Surgeon in charge, with his assistants, Drs. Small and Carter. Drs. Bull and Jones tendered their services, which were invaluable on the occasion.

While they were being conveyed from the boat some one of them asked for water. Mr. [illegible] in company with several gentleman immediately procured cans, buckets, &c., and a large quantity of ice, and employed hands to supply all on board with ice water.

As soon as the arrival became known hundreds of persons flocked to the wharf to learn if there was any Baltimoreans among them, and for the information of that class we would state they are mostly from the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th New Jersey, 2d and 5th Michigan, 5th Wisconsin, 2d New Hampshire, 1st, 9th, 11, 15th, 20th and 22d Massachusetts, 2d, 25th, 40th, 62d, 70th, 72d, 73d, 74th, 38th, 33d, 47th, 11th and 55th New York.—During the entire day of yesterday the hospitals were thronged with visitors, mostly ladies, particularly those connected with the Ladies' Union Relief Association, who were assiduous in rendering relief to the wounded by leaving little delicacies for them, for which those in charge of the hospital desire to return their sincere thanks, and beg leave to say that any presents, such as jellies, fruits, &c., they may wish to contribute will be thankfully received, they can be left at the hospitals, or at the rooms of the Ladies' Union Relief Association.

Exaggerated Statement.

Some of the papers have it that the national debt is seven or eight hundred millions. This is not the truth. The debt of the nation, to-day, will not figure a dollar over $500,000,000, and on the 1st of July next it will be under $600,000,000. The number of troops under pay has been exaggerated, we hear; probably by about one hundred thousand.—*National Intelligencer.*

Shooting of a Prisoner Whilst attempting to Escape.

WASHINGTON, May 11.—Harry A. Stewart, son of Dr. Stewart, of Baltimore, a prisoner in the Old Capitol, while attempting to escape to-day, was shot by the sentry and died from the effects of the wound.

Aid to Agricultural Education,

Mr. Wade yesterday introduced into the Senate a bill providing for an appropriation of thirty thousand acres of land for each Senator and Representative in Congress. The funds derived from the sale of these lands are to be invested in United States or other safe stocks, yielding not less than five per cent., the interest to be inviolably appropriated to endow and support at least one college in each State, in which shall be taught branches of learning relating to agriculture and the mechanic arts, military tactics, &c.—*Nat. Rep.*

FIRST GERMAN GOVERNOR.—The successor of the late Governor Harvey, of Wisconsin, is Edward Soloman, Esq., of Milwaukee, who, says the Milwaukee News is the first German born citizen that has ever filled the gubernatorial chair of any State in the Union. In politics he is a democrat.

☞ The next election in Delaware is to be contested on the slavery issue, one party for emancipation on the Lincoln plan, and the other against it. Judge Fisher, representative in Congress, is mentioned as the probable emancipation candidate for Governor.

The Crisis on Us!

Fools belch out nonsense and play the part of furious braggarts, spurning the admonitions of the wise and prudent, the maddening storm gathers blackness and darkness—and the deafening thunders burst over their heads, and the vivid lightnings play at their feet, before they can see and feel the danger, or admit the propriety, or necessity of seeking a place of refuge and security. Thus it is with thousands of poor deluded souls at the present time. The storm has been gathering for more than twelve long months, and the cry has constantly been "there is no danger," yet when men dared to say, that danger threatened them in the future, they were *spotted*, regarded as traitor and *eyed* as *suspicious characters*, who ought to be reported to the Military authorities, arrested, and sent to Richmond to be tried, condemned, and executed for treason against the *Southern Confederacy*. The leaders in this terrible revolution have cried peace and safety, when sudden destruction was at our very doors. If the *leaders* in this awful *tragedy* have, knowingly and wilfully, deceived the people, then they merit the unmitigated *anathemas* of all Heaven and earth, throughout all time and eternity; if they have done it ignorantly, then they should be held up as brainless objects of pity, scorn, and contempt to the whole civilized world, as blazing beacons to all stupid, unprincipled, political adventurers, through all coming time.

Who is so skeptical, or stultified, as to deny any longer the fact, that the terribly, awful, anticipated crisis is actually upon us. Politicians *swindled* the people out of their *rights*—made *slaves* of them, and then promised to lead them to *independence, freedom, prosperity, glory, honor*, and *immortality*. *Have they done it?* The wide world answers *No!* Where is our independence? Freedom? Prosperity? Glory? Honor? National immortality? Aye, where are the brave, heroic leaders themselves? Politicians turned Generals, and Generals turned cowards, or have proven themselves totally incompetent to accomplish the mighty work they promised to perform.

Not a single promise that the politicians made to the people has been met. In the science of political manœuvering and swindling, they were accomplished proficients, but when they girded on the sword and went out to battle, they proved themselves the veriest of dolts. With but few exceptions what have they done? They have fallen back from place, to place, and made so many surrenders that there are now but few more important points in the whole Southern Confederacy to yield.

When our Army fell back from Centreville and Fairfax Court House, to Manassas junction, this was a "strategic move, indicating great military skill, to draw the enemy from his strong hold."—And when, subsequently it fell back from Manassas to Rappahannock Station this was another grand device of military strategy, "our generals know what they are doing, all is safe in their hands." Again, when our Army fell back from Evan's Port and the whole line of the Potomac to Fredericksburg, this was another move of brilliant Military strategy; here a bold stand was to be made, and Fredericksburg was to be defended to the very last, and at all hazards. And, finally, on the ever memorable morning of the 18th of April 1862, when by military authority our bridges were burned, and the vessels of poor *seamen* were wrapped in flames, and the *brave, heroic General* fled for his life, carrying with him his whole Army, leaving helpless citizens, unarmed men, defenceless women and children to an unknown and uncared for destiny, this was another magnificently grand, Military strategic move.

Great God! Are we to be always deluded in this manner, for are we following an *ignis fatuus* to be-[illegible] as they plunge headlong into the black whirlpool of destruction, unless they shout hosannas to the *demon phantom*, which caused their ruin, a thousand voices exclaim, they are traitors, mad-men, fools and ought to be damned! Our Generals have fled, and carried the Army with them. By this act, they declare, that they could not protect us. If they could, why did they not stay and do it? They have left us to our own fate, and it now becomes us as wise and prudent men, to act the part of *freemen*, and take care of ourselves as best we can.

Heart-Rending Thought!

Hundreds of wives and thousands of children, whose husbands and fathers have been forced into the war, are left wholly dependent on their own exertions for the scanty means of a wretched existence. What must be the mental agonies of these husbands and fathers, when they reflect on the helpless and unknown condition of their affectionate wives and dear, little children, who are far away and no possible chances of seeing them, it may be, until the war shall have ended, and, perhaps, never again in this life. And what must be the painful reflections of these wives and mothers when they think of their dear husbands and with sorrowing hearts and weeping eyes gaze on their poor little children, the whole responsibility of whose subsistence depends upon them! Wives are left worse than widows, and children worse than orphans. Who but fathers and mothers can feel the deep, heart-felt afflictions of those parents who have sons far from home, in the Army, and poor boys, it may be, are actually suffering for food and raiment, and may be wounded, sick, dying, or dead, and no affectionate hand to administer relief, in a dying hour, and not even a *slab* to tell the stranger, who they were, nor where they lie. And all this affliction and sorrow, pain and death produced, to gratify the unhallowed and wicked ambition of unprincipled, aspiring demagogues!

SECESSION LIKE THE DEVIL.

It is said, that the Devil was a liar from the beginning. If he were a liar from the beginning, he was a liar in the days of Jesus Christ—is a liar still, and will continue to be, till the end of time. He lied to Eve in Paradise, and she influenced by his falsehood, sinned, and ruined the world. If the lies were all written in a book, which the Devil has told, the world itself, would hardly be able to contain it. To say nothing more at present of the old Devil, the father of lies, let us scan a few of the lies of the *Secession Devil*.

1. That the Federal Government could be broken up, the Union dissolved, the old United States divided, and two separate Governments formed out of them, without war, and bloodshed.

2. That if by any possible chance, war should happen, it would commence between the Black Republicans and Conservative men of the North, and would probably end there.

3. That New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Delaware, would certainly unite their destinies with the South.

4. That Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri, were all bound to secede, and would certainly go with the Gulf States. This was a *fixed fact*.

5. That in the event, by any possible contingency, there should be war, the South had men, munitions, and ample means of all kinds to prosecute it to a successful and glorious issue.

6. That the North had neither fighting men, money, nor means, to commence, and prosecute a war.

7. That Cotton was King—his throne was in the Gulf States—his empire the world—that all the *little* kings and queens of the earth, were bound to fall down and worship *Him*.

That the vexed question of African slavery would be hushed into eternal silence, and the institution of slavery settled upon a firm and immovable basis.

9. That slave territory would be enlarged, and slave property advance one hundred per cent.

10. That England, France, and, consequently, all other civilized nations of the world, would certainly acknowledge the Independence of the Provisional Government. This was a fixed fact, bound to be done of necessity.

11. That England and France, would certainly raise the blockade—their interest would compel them to do it.

12. That the Southern, would be the greatest Government in the world, and the citizens the most free, independent, wealthy, prosperous, and happy people on earth. All these, and many others, are the promises secession made to the Southern people. That they are all false, needs no argument—developed facts prove them so. By these fair promises the people of the South were deceived—they were swindled out of all their rights, as the sequel of this mournful tragedy will prove. Yes, for less than one mess of pottage, the whole South has become bankrupt, and the people plunged into a sea of sorrow, affliction, and death, the breadth, and depth of which none but the all-penetrating eye of omniscience can ever fathom. And yet, because we will not fall down and worship this *demon phantom*, we must be *spotted*, and by ignorant, bigoted partizans branded as an enemy and traitor to the South. We are no *enemy* to the South—we are no *traitor* to the South. No, we love the South, and always have loved her, and because we do, and always have loved the South, we always have, and do despise secession. We have, always known, and ever maintained, that the only security the South and Southern institutions had, was contained in the provisions of the Federal Constitution. We are no traitor to the South. We indignantly spurn the base imputation, and pronounce it an unmitigated, secession falsehood.

The traitors and enemies of the South, are the secession leaders of the South. Where are the men, who *fired up the Southern heart, and precipitated* this once glorious, independent, prosperous, and happy country into the present terrible revolution? Yes, where are they? Are they in the camp, with their knapsacks on their backs and muskets on their shoulders? Are they found lying side by side with the poor privates on the cold, wet ground? Are they performing the duties of the poor private soldier, exposed to all the dangers of camp life, for the pitiful sum of eleven dollars per month? No, their patriotism never pointed in that direction. With all their boasted patriotism and love of the South, they never intended to make such sacrifices to save her. When, are they? We answer, in Legislative, Congress and Senate Halls, decreeing conscription acts, by which to force and drag men from their homes, their wives and children into camp, to fight and die, while they themselves are living in magnificent splendor, enjoying all the luxuries of life, and wreathing their own brows with laurels which they vainly imagine will be as imperishable as the records of eternity. Those men, who despise traitors and are so very suspicious of the loyalty of others, take special good care to secure to themselves, their children, their *dear* friends, and *near* relations all the fat offices and honorable positions both in the State, and in the army. They are so patriotic, and love themselves so well, that they wish to monopolize the whole, lest in the scuffle for the spoils, others should get a part.—[illegible] is the mathematical measurement, the length, breadth, depth and height of the patriotism of those men who are so vociferous in exclaiming against the disloyalty of *honest, virtuous, gentlemen*, and *christians*.

Unprincipled politicians, and ignorant, fanatical religionists, North and South have caused all the sorrows, affliction, and troubles of war that now fill the country. In the abolitionists of the North, and the fire eaters of the South, extremes have met, and the work of ruin is done. Abolitionism and secession combined to effect the overthrow of our Government—the downfall of our country—Great God! What a fearful retribution awaits them in the awful future!

Predictions of the Christian Banner, January 31st, 1861.

1. Divide the Union—break up the Federal Government, and will not the same proximity still exist between the slave and free States that exist now?

2. Divide the Union, and the same morbid, moral sentiment will still remain in the hearts of abolitionists, which drives them on to daring deeds of madness now.

3. Divide the Union, and a thousand new causes of hate and eternal animosity will spring up among all parties.

4. Divide the Union—break up the Federal Government in advance of terms and treaties of separation between the North and South, and the door for any subsequent, equitable separation is forever closed and the key lost in eternity's depths.

5. Divide the Union, and the flood-gate is hoisted, through which a concentration of curses will flow, that baffles all human thought.

6. Divide the Union—break up the Federal Government, and Civil war begins, which will only end in the domination of the South over the North, or the North over the South.

7. Dissolve the Union, and Military and ecclesiastical despotism, or absolute monarchies will supplant the tree of liberty and all the blessings of freedom.

8. Dissolve the Union—break up the Federal Government, and the liberty of conscience, liberty of speech, liberty of action, liberty of the press, and the liberty of a once free, independent, prosperous and happy people, is gone, and gone forever.

9. Dissolve the Federal Government, and the reign of terror begins.

10. Dissolve the Union, and an era more to be dreaded than the dark ages commences.

11. Dissolve the Union, and the *guillotine* will take the place of the Star Spangled Banner, and whoever dare to speak a word against despots and tyrants, off goes his head.

12. Dissolve the Union, and then the *many*, the *dear* people, the hard working yeomanry, will all become the vassals of the few.

13. Dissolve the Union, and all the poor become the veriest menials of the lords and rulers of the people.

Are Virginians prepared for all these things? If so dissolve the Union—break up the Federal Government, and the work of death and desolation is done.

14. Virginia's action of secession, is virtually Virginia's action, to the abolition of all her slave property. *Secession* is virtually *abolition*—*Secession, is submission.*

15. If Virginia secede from the Federal Government, she will certainly lose all her negro property.

16. She will lose thousands of her noblest sons and fairest daughters.

17. She will lose her money and credit, and wind up in bankruptcy and ruin.

18. She will lose her horses and stock, corn and meat, silver ware, and valuable house-hold furniture, by midnight assassins, plunderers, and highway robbers—Banditti will prowl, and swarm through the country worse than Egyptian locusts.

19. She will lose many of her fine residences, beautiful villages, and thriving towns.

20. She will lose all her peace, quiet, and happiness, during the whole period of a long, protracted, civil war.

21. She will lose many of her sanctuaries, and her undisturbed public worship of Almighty God.

22. She will lose the kind feeling, friendship, affection, and love, which now exist among friends, neighbors, citizens, and relatives.

23. She will lose her schools, and colleges, and all facilities of educating her youth.

24. She will lose all she has gained in agricultural improvements, prosperity, and thrift—Her territory will become a common battle field, and her soil be saturated with the blood of the wounded, dead, and dying—In a word, she will lose all that she now holds near, dear, and sacred, and her history, honor, and glory will end in seas of blood, when the din and strife of the battle-field, and the thunders of civil war shall have passed away. Is Virginia prepare for all these things? If she be, then let her secede, and the sooner the better.

Christian Banner.

May 9th 1861, is the date of the last number of the Christian Banner, up to the present time. To day, May 9th 1862, just one year ago to a day, we again unfurl its sheet to the breeze.—When we closed our office twelve months ago, the *secession flag*—the emblem of *all folly*, was waving over our city—to-day, the *American Flag*—the Stars and *Stripes*—the proud emblem of a nation's greatness—the Flag, which our fathers won through blood and death—the Flag, which our fathers loved—the Flag which all nations honor—the Flag under which we were born and have lived forty-five years, save one, now floats proudly over us. Long may it wave over the land of the free and the home of the brave—may it wave over *us*, *our* children, *our* grand children, and great-great grand-children, down to the latest posterity, till Gabriel's trump shall sound and *old* time shall end—then good-bye *old honored flag*, Heaven is a better place than America.

We resume the publication of the Christian Banner, because we feel it our duty to do all the possible good we can for our country, and fellow-citizens. If we can only accomplish a single *mite* of good, our reward will be sure. We resume its publication, because there is no other paper now published in our town, nor all the surrounding country. Washington city, and Richmond city, are the nearest points to us, where any paper is published. The community needs a paper—whether the people will patronize the Banner or not, we cannot tell. As we used to do in olden times, so shall we continue to do in the future, and that is, to write just as nearly what we please as circumstances will allow. One thing is certain, and *unmistakable*, and that is, we shall exert our undivided and untiring influence and efforts to get our fellow citizens to become reconciled and return to the Union. This is our *only* hope of any peace, or happiness in the future.

Reflections.

When we retrospect the pleasures of past years, with warm-hearted friends, the many high and holy privileges we have enjoyed, and now think of the present condition of things around us, and then look into the future at the dark prospects ahead, our phylosophy is well nigh overcome, and we feel that we could weep tears of blood, could tears save our country from endless ruin.

We can scarcely realize the fact, that a whole nation of civilized, Christian people, are straining every nerve and making every possible effort, to cut each others throats, and tear out one anothers hearts. Can it be possible, that a nation so enlightened, so refined, and so religious, is engaged in a work so diabolical? Shame! Shame! upon the boasted wisdom, civilization, phylosophy, philanthrophy, patriotism, and Christianity of the American people.

It is an easy matter for a few leaders to get a whole country into difficulties, but a very hard matter to get themselves and their country out of them. A child can fire a house, while a whole community of men may not be able to rescue it from the flames. Such is the present deplorable state and fate of our once happy, and prosperous country.

A few ambitious leaders have brought ruin upon us all, and still the people tamely submit, afraid even to say they execrate the evil, or that their souls are their own. After all that has been said of man, god-like man—what is he but a compound of stupidity, ignorance, and cowardice, which compose the theological pill of total Depravity.

☞ Why is it that men will suffer passion and prejudice to dethrone reason? Let us consider for a moment our present deplorable condition. Our Generals and Army have left us to the mercy of chance. Congress has broken up in a state of terrified confusion, and have gone to seek their safety far from the seat of war, on their cotton, sugar, and rice plantations; the citizens of Richmond have become panic stricken and are leaving, the authorities are making preparations to burn the tobacco and public stores of the Army, that cannot and have not been sent away. These are facts, we presume, that are questioned by no one.

Why is it, that at this important crisis, when the lives of our dear sons and so many of our fellow-citizens are trembling on the very brink of eternity, that the very men, the leaders in this awful tragedy, fly before the advancing enemy? Why do they not stand and face the danger?—Because, conscience has made cowards of them.—They feel the guilt, they dread the penalty, and fly to save their own worthless carcases from being captured; and yet our dear children, neighbors, and friends must stay and fight, and die to protect the persons and property of the guilty leaders, who have fired up the Southern heart, and inveigled them into ruin. Are parents willing to see their own dear children butchered and slaughtered like wild beast, to gratify the unhallowed ambition of cowards, tyrants, and traitors? Can freemen submit to such an outrage? No.—Then, let us demand our children—let us call them home, and let Jeff. Davis and his Click go to the devil, where they ought to have been long ago.

☞ Since the surrender of the town of Fredericksburg to the Federal Authorities, hundreds of servants have left their masters, and gone to seek the blessings of freedom! Thousands of them may find when it is too late, that the anticipated blessings of freedom, will result like the anticipated glories of secession. The one idea with them is, freedom, all other blessings will follow as a matter of course. So it was with secession—just secede, and jump into paradise.

☞ Terms for the Banner, advertising, and job work cash in advance. Positively no credit.